

# BULLETIN

## CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

NEW SERIES, VOL. V, NO. 5

MAY 15, 1926

*"Did she really understand, as well as we, that his words were a mere accident due to the fact that he had no legitimate language of emotion? If a man is wretchedly angry, he must express it somehow, and to a woman it must be in words. If any fine phrases of passion are unknown to him, he must use the only forceful words in his vocabulary. Mike's confused obscenities were an attempt to express a jealousy as overwhelming as Othello's, just as 'Shake a leg, chicken,' would be his way of saying, 'Come into the garden, Maud.'"*—"Other People's Daughters," by ELEANOR ROWLAND WEMBRIDGE, pp. 69-70.

### AT CLEVELAND

The program of meetings of the Child Welfare League and the joint program of the League with the Children's Division of the National Conference are as follows. All meetings of the League are to be held at the Hotel Statler.

#### PROGRAM

Wednesday, May 26th, at 2:30 P. M.

HOTEL STATLER, LATTICE ROOM

Topic: Health Administrations in Children's Agencies and Institutions

- (a) In Town and Country—Miss Joanne Ortelle, R.N., Institution Inspection Bureau, Division of Charities, Columbus, Ohio.
  - (b) In the City—Dr. Spencer C. Wahl, Medical Director of the Children's Bureau Clinic, Lakeside Dispensary, Cleveland.
- Discussion.

Thursday, May 27th, at 2:30 P. M.

HOTEL STATLER, BALLROOM

Joint Session with the National Conference of Jewish Social Service

Chairman: Mr. Henry W. Thurston

Topic: Illustrations of Case Treatment:

- (a) In an Institution—Rev. Karl J. Alter, Catholic Charities, Toledo, Ohio.
  - (b) Of Unmarried Parenthood—Mrs. Sophie M. Robison, Home Bureau, Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society, New York City.
  - (c) To Preserve Family Ties—Miss Ora Pendleton, Ass't Secretary, The Children's Bureau of Philadelphia, Pa.
- Discussion.

Friday, May 28th, at 1 P. M.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING AT HOTEL STATLER

Friday, May 28th, at 2 P. M.

President's Address—Mr. Henry W. Thurston.

Business Meeting.

Report of the Executive Director.

Election of Officers.

Friday, May 28th, at P. M.

Meeting of Executive Committee.

Monday, May 31st, at 9 A. M.

Joint Session with the Division on Children.

- (a) The American Legion Program—Mr. John W. Gorby, Director, Child Welfare Division, National Headquarters, American Legion, Indianapolis, Ind.
  - (b) The Trend of Institutions for Dependent Children—Miss Mary Irene Atkinson, formerly Director, Department of Institutional Care, Child Welfare League of America.
  - (c) Changes in the Institutional Field in Cleveland in the Last Decade—Rev. C. H. Le Blond, Director of Charities, Diocese of Cleveland.
- Discussion.

Tuesday, June 1st, at 2:30 P. M.

HOTEL STATLER, LATTICE ROOM

Chairman: Dr. A. T. Jamison, Superintendent, Connie Maxwell Orphanage, Greenwood, South Carolina.

Topic: Institutional Care of Children—

- (a) Tracking the Child Through the Institution—Mr. Calvin Derrick, Dean of the Training School for Institution Executives and Workers, Dobbs Ferry, N. Y.
- (b) Returning the Child to the Community—Mrs. Sarah Sussman Tromer, Fellowship House, N. Y.
- (c) An Experiment in Personnel Training—Miss Eleanor Myers, Secretary, Children's Section, St. Louis Community Council.

All members of the Conference who are interested in these subjects will be very welcome at the meetings.

### FINANCES

A splendid spirit of responsibility and cooperation has been shown in the generous response on the part of member organizations to the need of financing, at least in part, the work of the Child Welfare League of

America. The budget for the current year is \$66,884. The estimated income for the year is \$36,392.72. Member organizations have pledged amounts totaling \$26,050. These pledges have been received from the different cities as follows:

New York.....	\$5,000
Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania.....	4,500
Chicago, Illinois.....	4,000
Rochester, New York.....	3,000
Boston and Northern New England.....	3,000
Connecticut.....	2,500
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.....	1,000
Baltimore, Maryland.....	1,000
Detroit, Michigan.....	700
Richmond, Virginia.....	500
Atlanta, Georgia.....	250
Jacksonville, Florida.....	225
Charleston, South Carolina.....	100
Greenwood, South Carolina.....	100
San Francisco, California.....	100
Helena, Montana.....	50
Raleigh, North Carolina.....	25
	<hr/>
	\$26,050

Will the societies which have not made their pledges do so during the month of May and will the members send their contributions to the League as early in the year as possible?

#### ADOPTION THROUGH CHILD-CARING AGENCIES IN PENNSYLVANIA

As a basis of its recommendations to the 1925 session of the Legislature, the Children's Commission of Pennsylvania gathered information, with the aid of the Pennsylvania State Department of Welfare, on 2,207 adoptions, 1,022 of which had occurred in Philadelphia within a five and a half year period ending June 30, 1924, and 1,187 of which during 1922 and 1923 in Allegheny and twelve other counties of the state. The 14 counties studied had 58 per cent of the state's population as reported by the 1920 Census. It was estimated that the annual number of adoptions for the state as a whole is between 1,300 and 1,400.

By studying all of the adoptions of the community, the Children's Commission secured a different picture of the practice of adoption than is usually present in discussions of a series of adoptions resulting from placements by social agencies. Some rather arresting facts came to light. It came as a shock to find that a substantial majority of the adoptions are effected without any contact or assistance from child-caring or family agencies. The general picture is obtainable from the Commission's own report, published in 1925, and from summaries of it which have appeared in *The Survey* of January 15, 1925, in the *Catholic Charities Review* of January, 1926, and elsewhere. It is the intention here, however, simply to indicate a few of the facts relating to the adoptions in which agencies and institutions had participated.

Among the 940 adoptions of minors through the Philadelphia courts it came out that only 214 had been placed for adoption by social agencies. A total of 41 different agencies and institutions appeared in these records as participants. The Children's Commission was anxious to see with what seriousness these different agencies had regarded their part in these proceedings. Of the 41 agencies and institutions, the Commission was able to get additional information from 21, but was unable to get it from 20. The 21 cooperating agencies covered a total of 175 of the 214 adoptions. One agency reported on 54 adoptions, another on 49, a third on 24, and a fourth on 11. The remaining 17 agencies had small numbers of adoptions, in no case exceeding 6. Of the 20 agencies that failed to furnish information on the remaining 39 adoptions, 7 agencies and institutions, responsible for 15 adoptions, had kept no social case records and were, therefore, unprepared for such a request; 3 organizations involved in 8 adoptions refused to admit that they had participated, although signatures of responsible officials appeared on the adoption papers; 8 agencies responsible for 10 adoptions were located either in distant parts of the state or in other states and they failed to reply to the Commission's written request for information. As the time in which to complete the study was limited and the number of cases small, the Commission did not press the matter. One agency, which was able to furnish 24 records, was unable to identify 3 other cases allocated to it.

In the study of the adoptions of Allegheny and 12 other counties of the state it came out that of 1,187 adoptions, 54 agencies and institutions had participated directly in 443 adoptions. The inadequacy of information about the foster homes in which these children had been placed was revealed pointedly when the records of these agencies and institutions were searched. Of 443 cases, special schedules on the information regarding foster homes were secured for 413. Of these only 220 contained information on both occupation and income of the adopter; 123 contained information on occupation alone; 173 gave information as to whether the adopting parents owned or rented their home; and 181 on the length of time the adopting couple had been married. Other items of pertinent information appear somewhat less frequently in these records.

Regarding the veracity of statements made in these adoption petitions in which agencies have participated, much seems left to be desired. Among the 214 Philadelphia adoptions, 48 of the children were legitimate, 128 were known to be illegitimate, and in 38 cases the legitimacy could not be determined; 27 in this latter group were foundlings. Of the 128 cases of illegitimate children, in 38 instances the petition gave the natural

father's name; in 38 instances it omitted any reference to the father, and in 53 cases stated that the father was unknown. In 15 of the cases in which the father's name was omitted in the petition, it was in the record of the agency or institution. In 13 cases where it is definitely stated to be unknown it appears on the social case record. In 10 cases the petitions contained the name of neither parent, yet in 4 of these the names of both parents appear in the record. In 2 cases where the petitions stated that the mother's name was unknown and reference to the father was omitted, both names appear on the agency's record. In 2 cases where the petitions stated that the mother's name was unknown and in 2 in which it was simply omitted, the agency record shows her name. Among the 48 petitions relating to legitimate children was one which stated quite definitely that the mother was dead. The agency record says that the mother disappeared some time after the child had been in its custody and could not be located.

The most flagrant case of misrepresentation was in a petition which recited that the father and mother bearing the same surname and presumably married had died in the influenza epidemic on dates given. These were three years before the adoption petition was filed. A children's institution gave consent to the adoption. From the case records of an allied children's agency which investigates cases for this institution it appears that the mother was a fourteen-year-old-girl who worked after school in a candy store belonging to an older man having several children but not living with his wife. This man became the father of the illegitimate child. The names of the parents as they appear in the adoption petition are the mother's real name and a fictitious name for the father. It consists of his first name, the first letter of his surname appears as a middle initial, and the mother's surname has been given to him. There is no question about the identity of the case.

The mother, it would appear, was a child of good reputation who was imposed upon by her employer. Her mother worked in the tailoring industry and her older brother and sister were employed. Another older sister, crippled from tuberculosis, kept house for the family and could not take care of the child. It was given to the children's institution, which placed it with the adopting family. It was learned that this adopting family was extremely anxious to conceal the fact of adoption but the record was not impounded.

It would seem that an adoption record of this character, probably made fictitious in the hope of protecting the mother and the child itself, is a serious menace to the happiness and peace of mind both of the child and its adopting parents. There seems little doubt but that fraud was practised either on the agency which

accepted the child and consented to the adoption, which seems improbable, or on the court decreeing the adoption. If any person at any time for any reason wishes to challenge the validity of this adoption, it would be easy to establish the fact that the petition contained serious perjury. Where there is property in a family the "parties at interest" usually include some people who may have a definite stake in upsetting the adoption. It seems not to occur to some of these agencies that to take part in an invalid adoption procedure is a service of doubtful benefit both to foster parent and to the child.

While the gravest abuses in the practice of adoption in Pennsylvania probably centered about those formerly decreed on direct application of the adopting parents to the courts, it is nevertheless true that adoptions are engineered by a good many agencies and institutions on the basis of distinctly inferior technical work, both legal and social. As is well known, social investigations are not made without considerable expenditure of time and effort. Those agencies not equipped to make such effort might well hesitate to engage in so responsible a form of children's work as placement for adoption.

NEVA R. DEARDORFF

#### PROBLEMS CHANGE IN MASSACHUSETTS

The Forty-Fifth Annual Report of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children provides very interesting evidence of the factors which enter into neglect and underprivilege among children in Massachusetts. The General Secretary, Mr. Theodore Lothrop, reports that the volume of their work during the last year has again been heaviest in the history of the Society, only ten fewer families than the year before having been dealt with. In the course of the year, 13,209 children were reported to the Society. Of these, 2,234 were protected by means of court action, which resulted in the permanent removal of 399 from their parents; a temporary removal of 899; and the supervision of 575 in their own homes. Of the balance, some were found to be not in need of the services of the Society, or could not be located, or were cared for by another agency; and 8,652 were protected by the case work methods of the Society without the intervention of the Court.

Mr. Lothrop writes:

"Physical neglect tops the list as usual. These are the families whose children, by reason of the culpable neglect of their parents, were suffering from insufficient food and clothing, living in the midst of filth and squalor, many of them afflicted with disease or vermin. Their condition was most pitiable.



*President*—HENRY W. THURSTON, New York  
*Secretary*—C. V. WILLIAMS, Chicago  
*Treasurer*—ALFRED F. WHITMAN, 24 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, Mass.  
*Executive Director*—C. C. CARSTENS, New York

"Intemperance, always most destructive of good family life, and one of the greatest causes of child misery, was present prior to National Prohibition in 47.7 per cent of the families dealt with. In 1921, the first year of National Prohibition, intemperance dropped to 16.8 per cent. In 1922 it increased to 20.2, and in 1923, to 23.2 per cent. In 1924 it decreased to 21.9 per cent. In 1925, our first year of State law concurrent with Federal, it again decreased to 18.9 per cent.

"Briefly, as shown by the records of this Society, working, as it does, with the worst types of family problems, intemperance, as a cause of child abuse and neglect, has, at all times, been less than half, and is now down to nearly one-third, of what it was before National Prohibition.

"It is interesting to note that physical cruelty, an aggravated instance of which led to the organization, in New York, of the first Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, fifty years ago, and which formerly was quite common, appeared in less than 8 per cent of this year's problems. That sheer brutality constitutes so small a part of our work today is undoubtedly due in good measure to the lessons taught parents and others by this and other child protection agencies everywhere."

**The various publications from which quotations are made are generally on file in the League's office and may be procured for fuller study.**

#### REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Workers from all of the Central Atlantic states were present at the Mid-Atlantic Conference in Richmond, April 22 and 23.

Interesting questions were raised at most of the sessions. In discussing the effect of the so-called six months' law on the welfare of infants born out of wedlock, Miss A. Madorah Donahue, Executive Secretary of the International Association of Policewomen, made it very clear that hundreds of children are alive today who would, under conditions preceding the enactment of this law in Maryland, have died in the first months of life. As a health and life-saving measure there seems to be no question of its efficacy.

Miss Donahue also made it clear that the law is a valuable instrument in the hands of social workers, by enabling them to make reasonably well-thought-out plans, and giving them time for thorough investigation in these cases where so much depends upon the element of time in winning the confidence of the client and in following obscure clues.

In comment on Miss Donahue's paper, Mrs. Lovett of Richmond, the executive of a small home for unmarried mothers, brought out admirably the personal

side of the average case and made one feel that the combination of good law and understanding case work should go very far in the average case.

The Rev. M. L. Kesler spoke with great effect, out of his long experience as head of the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage, on the place of authority and responsibility which a superintendent must occupy if he is to function efficiently. He also recommended that matrons and cottage mothers have separate rooms, if possible, with comfortable bath arrangements attached. Their work is necessarily very confining and they must have respite from the incessant routine if their morale is to remain high. He is a sturdy advocate of the participation of the clergy in schemes for child betterment. We fail to see how his brother clergy in North Carolina could listen to his vigorous and persuasive presentation of this thesis and retain any shred of indifference toward children.

Mr. J. Prentice Murphy spoke for more than an hour, to an audience which crowded the hall, on the understanding of people with whom we deal, illustrating his admirable presentation with cases drawn from his own experience. His whole address was a singularly fine picture of the importance of human relationships being considered, conserved and valued in social work.

We shall at a later date print certain excerpts from the paper of Miss Lily E. Mitchell, Supervisor of the Spelman-Rockefeller Demonstration of County Work in North Carolina. Miss Mitchell's paper ably illustrates a very interesting system of work.

Mental hygiene was adequately cared for by the discussions of Dr. Ralph P. Truitt, National Committee for Mental Hygiene, New York City, and Dr. George H. Preston, Director of the Children's Memorial Clinic in Richmond, both of whom were in line with preceding speakers in emphasizing the absolute necessity of knowing the elements of the case one is dealing with.

For the first time the New England states have had a Regional Conference of the Child Welfare League of America and revealed a community of interest and "reason for being" in this conference which went far toward making it the success it was.

For some years the New England Home for Little Wanderers had called to its doors workers from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont in what was known as the "Tri-State Conference." Last year this was enlarged to include other New England states and this year was merged in the Child Welfare League of America Regional Conference, thereby reaching and benefiting a larger number of people.

Of special interest were the reports from each state, given by a representative of the six State Departments of Child Welfare in New England. Many contrasts appeared in progress already achieved and much was

disclosed still needing to be done. Dr. Carstens very pertinently pointed out objectives still to be made which other newer states had already reached and New England might well observe.

Perhaps the outstanding formal address was given by Dr. James Q. Dealey, Head of the Department of Sociology of Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, the speaker secured by the Boston Conference on Illegitimacy, who was especially stimulating by reason of his optimism and forward-looking point of view. The paper was of practical value also in pointing out in a broad way the relationship between individual problems of illegitimacy and social welfare in general.

The Conference was fortunate also in having Judge Frederick P. Cabot and Dr. William Healy for speakers, both of whom urged greater understanding and skill in dealing with the difficult child.

The Round Tables gave an opportunity for free discussion and interchange of ideas on practical matters, so that all in all those who attended the Conference left with the impression that they had heard not only stimulating speeches but had received definite, constructive help for their work.

### SALARIES

"D—— House is a study home for children. We have a boys' and a girls' department. Our wards come and go but while they are here we aim to make them physically fit. They are tested psychometrically, weighed and measured regularly, their behavior problems dealt with, and a home is found for them. We endeavor to do a forward-looking piece of work and our standards of work have received approval by the Child Welfare League of America. We are several miles from the city and absolutely isolated so far as social life is concerned."

The foregoing quotation from a recent letter describes a fairly typical instance of a child welfare institution which is attempting to do progressive work. It accompanied a request for statistics, to be used before a board of trustees, for comparing salaries in this institution with those in other institutions doing a similar kind of work.

The letter contained other interesting information. "Both our housemothers, who are excellent women, receive \$60 a month (and maintenance). The salary was \$50 a month until last year. The allotted salary for the assistant housemother, who, when children are ill, is in charge of the infirmary, is \$40 a month. But I find it hard to fill this position and yet more difficult to obtain a larger salary for the worker in it."

This points to a cycle of the cause and effect common in many fields of social work: low salaries; high turnover; undue waste of time in finding and training personnel; and consequently poorer work than might otherwise be done. In this connection the following

series of figures representing the trend of salaries in social work and in teaching, from the study which is being made by the Department of Statistics of the Russell Sage Foundation, will be of interest. They are the sort of data which should be used for the purpose indicated in the letter quoted from above, that is, to demonstrate to boards of trustees or directors of social work agencies that salaries in these agencies have not kept pace either with the salaries in other occupations requiring similar amounts of training and technique, or with the standards of work and amount of training required.

These figures relate to salaries in or about cities of more than 100,000 population. For social workers the salaries relate to personnel below the rank of supervisors; for teachers the figures similarly relate to the rank and file positions only. It should be noted that the child welfare salaries are based on a relatively small sampling of the field, and also that the greater increase in child welfare salaries and their purchasing power than in other social work salaries is due to the fact that the average salary shown for 1913 is so extremely low.

### SALARIES IN SOCIAL WORK AND TEACHING

	Child Welfare Workers	Other Social Workers	Elementary School Teachers	High School Teachers
AVERAGE SALARIES				
1913.....	\$760	\$839	\$807	\$1,325
1925.....	1,514	1,517	1,844	2,434
RELATIVE SALARIES				
1913.....	100	100	100	100
1925.....	199	181	229	183
RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER OF SALARIES				
1913.....	100	100	100	100
1925.....	114	104	131	115

RALPH G. HURLIN.

### GOOD NEWS FROM COLORADO AND WYOMING

A year ago the League gathered facts about child care in Colorado and Wyoming at the request of that District of Kiwanis International to furnish a starting-point for constructive service to children by the 1,000 Kiwanians in the two states. A report was made with recommendations covering both public and private, local and state-wide organization for better child care.

On March 16th of this year a conference was held in Denver of representatives of all societies, clubs and organizations in Colorado interested in better child care in the state. It was called by Kiwanis, which presented to the meetings our recommendations and discussed ways and means of taking action. The Executive Director of the League, Mr. Carstens, was present to discuss in more detail the recommendations made and to guide action taken. We are now informed that the Colorado Child Welfare League has been formed and



incorporated to promote better co-ordination among all agencies, public and private, and to work for larger resources and better standards in children's work.

The chairman is Mr. E. C. van Diest of Colorado Springs, who, as District Governor of Kiwanis in 1924-1925, initiated the whole matter, secured the services of the League and is now following up his early plans in this constructive manner. Mrs. Mary E. Holland of the Colorado Children's Aid Society is Secretary and the Board of Directors includes judges, professional workers, influential citizens, representatives of Service Clubs and other organizations. Committees are already taking up specific problems with the intention of securing definite action. It is of interest to note that the survey from which the present effort springs was being made at the exact time when the newly elected Governor Morley abolished the State Department of Charities and Corrections, and the State Department of Health along with a Bureau of Horse Shoers' Examiners, as all being equally unnecessary! Perhaps the new League will not only repair the damage but build even stronger services.

In Wyoming, Kiwanis has taken the lead in assisting to organize a State Conference of Social Work and in asking Governor Ross to appoint a citizens' commission to study and recommend thoroughgoing revision of all laws affecting dependent, delinquent and neglected children. The Commission will undoubtedly be appointed, to report a year hence to the next Legislature.

#### CHILD WELFARE NEWS

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. reports for 1925 a better health record than ever before for its industrial policyholders in the United States and Canada. Since this group constitutes one-seventh of the total and one-quarter of the rural population of the two countries, the record is a fairly accurate index for the population as a whole. The two outstanding items in the record, the report states, are the remarkable improvement in the death rate from tuberculosis and from the leading epidemic diseases of children. For the first time the tuberculosis rate for this group fell below 100 per 100,000, the rate being only 98, which represents a decrease of 50 per cent within the past 10 years. Of the four principal epidemic diseases of children—measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and whooping-cough—the first three registered the lowest rates ever recorded for this group, and the combined rate for the four was 19.7 per 100,000, which is a decline of 25 per cent from the former minimum rate. This is less than the rate recorded only five years ago for diphtheria alone.

Greatest significance attaches to the decrease in the diphtheria rate, the report states, since this disease still causes more deaths than the other three combined.

The rate in 1925 was 10.2, which shows a reduction of more than 50 per cent during the past 5 years, a decline which is attributed to the increasing use of toxin-antitoxin as an immunizing agency and of the antitoxin treatment for children sick with the disease. Another low record was established for diseases associated with maternity, with a rate of 16.9 per 100,000 as compared with 17.2 in 1924. Improved medical and nursing supervision are believed to have been the chief factors in bringing about the more favorable showing.

In contrast to these favorable records is the report of deaths from automobile accidents, which reached a new maximum rate of 16.7, an increase of 50 per cent since 1920. Approximately 40 per cent of automobile fatalities were among children under 15. "The automobile is as great a menace to child life today as scarlet fever and whooping-cough combined." (Statistical Bulletin, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., January, 1926, p. 1.)

The little town of Altura, Minn., has found a solution for the problem of obtaining the services of a resident doctor in a small rural community. The citizens decided to form a health association for the purpose of employing a capable doctor by contract. Several schemes were proposed and a doctor was finally secured under the following plan: The association agrees as a salary guaranty to secure as many members as possible on the basis of \$24 a year for each family, the doctor to have entire freedom for outside practice after meeting the claims of members to his services. The doctor is also to operate the drug store. The \$24 fee covers, in addition to any needed calls in case of sickness, a thorough health examination twice a year if desired and sanitary inspection of the home, including inspection of the water supply, drainage, and garbage and sewage disposal. Extra charges are made for night calls and for obstetrical cases, the money thus secured being used to defray the expenses of the association. (Rural America, New York, February, 1926, p. 5.)

The medical school of the University of Paris recently established a clinic where children and young people showing mental disorders or tendencies to antisocial acts or to delinquency will be examined and treated. The data obtained in this way will be used in the courses on child psychiatry at the university and will be made available to all persons interested in this subject. (Le Nourrisson, Paris, January, 1926, p. XI.)

In 1922 the National German Society for the Protection of Children undertook an investigation of the extent of child labor in agriculture in Germany, the results of which have just been published. Replies to a questionnaire sent out by the society showed an increase in

the amount of child labor in agriculture in recent years, which is attributed mainly to poverty, the labor shortage, higher wage demands on the part of adult workers, and the influx of recent school graduates into industry. The average age at which the children were reported to begin agricultural work was 10 years, and some began at the age of 4 or 5. The hours of work varied from 2 to 5 in winter and from 2 to 12 the rest of the year. In the summer during the school term the children worked on an average of 4 to 5 hours daily, and teachers often complained about the bad effect upon their school work. During vacation the children's hours were the same as those for adults, and Sunday work was frequent. Often working conditions were insanitary, and the work was unsuited to the strength of children. (Reichsarbbeitsblatt, Berlin, January, 1926, p. 26.)

From January 18-22, the Cleveland Child Guidance Clinic ran an "Institute" for supervisors and district secretaries of cooperating social agencies in response to a request for a presentation and open discussion of the psychiatric-social material with which cooperating workers need to be familiar for more active interchange between them and the clinic. In attendance were twenty-one supervisors and district secretaries of the Associated Charities, three from the Red Cross, three from the Humane Society, two from the Welfare Federation for Jewish Children, three from the Jewish Social Service Bureau, two from the Cleveland Children's Bureau and two from the Attendance Department of the Public Schools. The presentations brought up a number of questions about the relationship between psychiatry and social work and made possible a very fruitful exchange of opinion about the psychiatric content of case problems and the necessity for a close cooperative alliance between the two fields.

A list of over 400 books suitable for the pre-school child has been published by the Child Study Association of America under the title of *The Child's First Books*. Some attractive foreign picture books which have come from France, Germany, Scandinavia, and Czechoslovakia have been included. Publisher, price and a brief descriptive note are given for each book. The list includes the first picture book, the first story books, books on transportation, stories about real children, fairy and folk tales, Bible stories, poetry, story collections, and foreign literature for children. The purposes underlying the choice of these books are explained in the introduction. There is a foreword by Dr. Arnold Gesell of the Yale Psycho-clinic. Copies may be ordered from the Child Study Association, 54 West 74th Street, New York City, at thirty-five cents a copy.

**H**AVE you read all of the League's publications? We can supply the following in such numbers as are desired:

**BULLETIN No. 6.**—The Need for Psychological Interpretation in the Placement of Dependent Children, by Jessie Taft, Ph.D.  
Price, Fifteen Cents

**BULLETIN No. 7.**—What Dependent Children Need. Edited by C. V. Williams.  
Price, Twenty-five Cents

**BULLETIN No. 11.**—The Problem of the Unmarried Mother and Her Child, by Ruth I. Workum.  
Price, Fifteen Cents

#### CASE STUDIES—

**No. 1,** Edited by Miss Georgia G. Ralph. The service given by a child-placing agency to a family with three small children where the mother was in need of sanitarium care. In Three Parts.

Price, Thirty Cents (complete)  
Twenty-five or more copies, Twenty-five Cents Each

**No. 2,** A Study of the Experience of a Nursery School in Training a Child Adopted from an Institution, by Helen T. Woolley, Ph.D.

Price, Twenty-five Cents  
Ten or more copies, Fifteen Cents Each

Judge R. R. Ryan, of the Sixth Judicial District, has announced the appointment of Miss Ella B. Watland as full-time, resident probation officer for the district court. Since in New Mexico the district courts act as juvenile courts, this announcement is of very great importance in the field of child welfare. By this action New Mexico has its first professionally trained, full-time, local social case worker with children. Up to this time there have been only three social case workers with children in the State, all of whom were on the staff of the State Bureau of Child Welfare.

#### ENCLOSURES

(Sent to members of League only)

The enclosures for this month are:

1. Cleveland Humane Society Statement of Services.
2. "St. Louis Children's Aid Society." Attractive selection of cases to illustrate work.
3. "American Legion Weekly," April 30, 1926, containing write-up of work of Child Welfare Division, page 4.

#### CHANGES FOR DIRECTORY

**NEW YORK**—Children's Aid and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children of Erie County, Buffalo. New address, 53 Niagara Street.

**TENNESSEE**—Tennessee Children's Home Society, Nashville. Mrs. Fannie B. Elrod, Superintendent, to succeed Mrs. Isaac Reese, resigned.



## INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON ILLEGITIMACY BULLETIN

*President:* MRS. RUTH I. WORKUM, Cincinnati, Ohio.

*Vice-President:* MR. C. V. WILLIAMS, Chicago, Ill.

*Secretary-Treasurer:* MISS ELIZABETH YERKA, Madison, Wis.

An interesting report from Miss Alice Hunt, Cleveland Humane Society, reads as follows:

"In our work with the unmarried mother we have tried to keep in mind the principles worked out by the Conference on Illegitimacy: the rights of the child, the rights of the mother, the rights of the father, and the rights of the community.

"It matters not under what circumstances a child may be born. He must have proper medical and physical care in order to start life with as fair a chance as possible. This means that the mother often needs help along many lines. When she goes to one of the five maternity homes, she is especially urged to enter a few weeks before her child is born, she is certain to receive the help which she needs so much at this time. During the past year (1925) sixty babies were born in maternity homes and often those born in hospitals are transferred with their mothers to these homes to remain for the nursing period. There were seventy babies born in hospitals. Often girls look upon going into a home as a punishment. This attitude however usually changes after the benefit of a stay in the home is explained to them. It is while a girl is in the maternity home that the attitude of the parents frequently changes toward the mother and baby, which is of great assistance in making the adjustment of both that comes later. The grandmothers that come to our office leading their grandchildren by the hand testify to the fact that a baby makes its own appeal.

"The rights of the father are not so easily assumed. A request often must be followed with authority. This year we had twenty-six voluntary settlements including twenty-one marriages. There were forty-one prosecutions; fourteen settlements without trial. In many cases the father has left town long before the case is known to the Humane Society. When a marriage is decided upon every effort is made to have the parties concerned realize the responsibility which it means, and that it is in no sense a cheap way out of an embarrassing social situation. One man was very honest about it when he said, 'I want to get out of this just as cheaply as I can.' In less than a month he departed for parts unknown and has never been heard from since.

"The fourth principle, that of the community. More and more it is possible to return a girl to her own community under the care and guidance of a social agency where placing the responsibility upon the father can be better worked out. Emphasis must be placed upon the importance of parents caring for their own children. Every effort must be made to help them to do so. When we can overcome the difficulties in the working out of these principles, 'All life will be purer and stronger thereby.'"

### ADOPTIONS

"The combined critical judgment of the social investigator, the court, the physician, and the mental examiner should enter into the regulation of adoption.

"The greatest universal safeguard is a period of probation, but this can not be wisely used unless supplemented by clinical determinations of health conditions and development outlook. Mental examinations are particularly necessary to forestall serious errors of selection by over-sanguine foster parents. These examinations are also necessary to reduce the number of replacements or uprootings which still figure too frequently in the lives of dependent children.

"Adoption is at once a social expedient and a social asset. Like education, it must be adapted to each individual situation if it is to realize the best results. Purely from the standpoint of social economy, if for no other reason, this asset should be constructively conserved. Optimum placement consists in the avoidance of underplacement, overplacement, and misplacement and results in the greatest mutual good for child and foster parent.

"Clinical control of child adoption should be closely related to all precautionary and investigatory procedures. It should reinforce and direct rather than displace other methods of control.

"Systematic psychoclinical examinations not only will reduce the wastes of error and miscarriage but will serve to reveal children of normal and superior endowment beneath the concealment of neglect, of poverty, or of poor repute.

"Clinical safeguards can not solve all the problems of child adoption, but they can steadily improve its methods and make them both more scientific and humane. Most of all in the appealing but undefined period of infancy do we need a clearer light for faith."—DR. ARNOLD GESSELL, "Psychoclinical Guidance in Child Adoption."

### CLEVELAND MEETINGS

*Tuesday, June 1st, at 12:30 P. M.*

HOTEL CLEVELAND, GEORGIAN ROOM

Luncheon and Business Meeting.

*Wednesday, June 2d, at 9:30 A. M.*

Joint Session with Division on Children.

I. What shall be the basis of decision on which a child of illegitimate birth shall be released for adoption?—Rev. John O'Grady.

Leader of Discussion—Miss Ruth Colby.

II. Mental hygiene aspects of the adoption of children of illegitimate birth—

(a) On the Child.

(b) On the Mother.

—DR. MIRIAM VAN WATERS.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

(Inter-City Conference on Illegitimacy)

Individual dues, \$1.00; Group dues, \$5.00, payable to the Treasurer, Juvenile Department, Board of Control, Madison, Wis.